

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, at lines 13-21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

More particularly, the bacterium is a LAB-1 strain. The LAB-1 strain was deposited at the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) whose current address is 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209 on September 27, 2000, and has Accession No. ATCC PTA-2500. The biofilm producing bacterium may be further defined as being capable of growth between about pH 4 and 11 and between about 15° and 45°C. The LAB-1 strain is capable of growth in minimal growth media, or may be grown in an aqueous nutrient medium that includes yeast, peptone and mineral salt ingredients. LAB-1 is a gram-negative, rod-shaped bacterium of about 0.2 X 0.8 μm that secretes the exopolysaccharide described herein.